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is properly emphasized, for one cannot understand the development of Russian writing unless one bears in mind this constant intrusion of "purpose."

The book is for popular usage, and is therefore not encumbered with constant indications of sources, but the best English translations of the Russian classics and of more modern writers are given. An appeal is made, however, to learn Russian in order to be able to study this enormous literature at first hand, for, as is stated, the difficulty of this language has been greatly exaggerated.

By reason of being most imperfectly known Russia has been much maligned, exploited by writers of sensation, and generally looked down upon. One is often dumbfounded at the absolute ignorance of Russian literature. Tolstoy is of course known to the reading public, but the other great lights of the same period and of earlier and later periods are often not known even by name. Yet Russia has produced some of the most eminent writers of the last century. If we must still wait for a satisfactory up-to-date political history of Russia we have here an admirable history of its literature, or more exactly, as the title indicates, the history of Russia in the matter of literature.

During the confusion of a vast political movement the "true lines of literary movement have been obscured," so that the last chapter does not bring us beyond 1905, though it points out the prevailing tendencies as presented in Gorky and Andreiev.

A word must be said of the scholarly and admirable preparation of this English edition by Mr. Minns, who has been for years a thorough student of the Russian language and literature.

SAMUEL N. HARPER.

University of Chicago.

Chancellor, William E. *Our City Schools, Their Direction and Management.*

Pp. xv, 338. Price, \$1.25. Boston: D. C. Heath & Co., 1908.

This work is supplementary to an earlier one entitled "Our Schools, Their Administration and Supervision." The former dealt with communities of from five thousand to fifty thousand inhabitants; in the present volume the discussion treats of larger cities.

The author accepts the social welfare of the democracy as the ultimate aim of the school and looks to education as the universal panacea for the evils existing in our great municipalities. "The city, the great city ever tending to become yet greater, is the insoluble problem of civilization; its degeneration and collapse have hitherto been inevitable. Universal education may be the missing factor by which mankind is to solve the problem." In this work, the establishment of proper system, the handling of physical details, what Thring called "the almighty wall," is considered the greatest need of our schools. "In the poor school system, the good school is an accident and is always in peril of destruction. In the good school system, the poor school is an anomaly and is certainly in process of reform and of improvement. In other words, I know that a good teacher cannot evolve a good

school everywhere, and that a poor teacher is growing better or is removed where the right system prevails."

The treatment of the size of boards of education, of the relation of the board to the superintendent, the need of and functions of the special school, etc., is on a sane and workable basis; though as a contribution to the subject the work would be of more value if discussion with proof were substituted for dogmatic statement. This is one of a group of books now appearing which, by giving details of methods, records, forms, etc., aim to aid in unifying educational processes throughout the nation.

JAMES S. HIATT.

Germantown, Pa.

Conyngton, Thomas. *A Manual of Corporate Management.* Third edition. Pp. xviii, 422. Price, \$3.50. New York: Ronald Press, 1909.

This compendious volume, furnishing a vast quantity of useful information, marks a decided improvement over previous editions of the same work. While writing for the most part with strict legal accuracy, its author has managed to avoid being technical. As the title indicates, the purpose of the work is to present within a reasonable compass a practical handbook of corporate management.

The book is divided into eight parts. The first five deal with matters of substantive corporation law. The last three contain various useful and well-chosen forms. The following outline indicates the scope of the book: Part I, The Corporate System; Part II, Stock; Part III, Stockholders; Part IV, Directors and Officers; Part V, Miscellaneous Corporate Matters; Part VI, Forms Relating to Incorporation; Part VII, Forms Relating to Meetings; Part VIII, Miscellaneous Corporate Forms. Almost every question that might arise in the ordinary management of corporate affairs is answered concisely within the limits of a single volume. Not the least valuable feature of the work is the number of forms, two hundred and two in all.

Like most works which deal with the law throughout the entire United States, Mr. Conyngton's book can do little more than give the majority rule in matters wherein the practice of corporations and the laws regulating them vary in the different states. In this country, corporations are altogether of statutory origin, and the legislatures of many of the states have apparently sought to outvie each other in the number and novelty of their statutes governing domestic and foreign companies. It were hopeless, for instance, to try in brief space to chronicle the vagaries, constitutional and otherwise, of Texas, Oklahoma and Arkansas lawmakers. One has no easy task in setting forth the law of corporations as laid down in any single state; the statutes and judicial decisions of over forty states are in many matters utterly discordant and cannot be exhaustively summarized in a single volume.

A general work of this kind, therefore, while it will lighten the labor of corporation officials and give them an intelligent appreciation of what might otherwise seem meaningless red tape, cannot be regarded as an inex-